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MARINE CORPS TEAMS UP WITH SBA TO PROVIDE ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING



"Operation Boots to Business," a new partnership between the Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Marine Corps launched July 12, will provide active duty and veteran Marines with the training and resources necessary to start their own

businesses. The program includes a basic entrepreneurship course taken on base as part of the Transition Readiness Seminar, followed by an optional eight-week online business planning course through Syracuse University. "Our service men and women have made incalculable contributions and sacrifices for our country, and supporting them as they pursue their dreams to start or grow their own business is one of our highest priorities," said Karen Mills, SBA Administrator.

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[Boots to Business Website](#)

[Employment Opportunities for Veterans](#)

NEWS

MCSF AWARDS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS TO 1,909 MARINE CHILDREN

More than \$6 million in college scholarships will help 1,909 Marine Corps children attend school this fall thanks to the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation (MCSF). Among this year's recipients are the first 10 students to receive scholarships established by Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Dakota Meyer. "I am honored to work with the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation and I renew my challenge to America to help me raise an additional \$1,000,000 to help give Marines' children a bright future," Meyer said. Responding to a steep increase in applications, MSCF provided 17 percent more scholarship funding for students in need. Celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, MCSF is the nation's oldest and largest provider of need-based scholarships to military families. Since 1962, the Foundation has provided more than 30,000 scholarships valued at more than \$70 million to children of Marines.

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WHITE HOUSE LAUNCHES 'SAVE' COMPETITION



Have an idea to help the government save money? Through the Saving Americans Value and Efficiency (SAVE) Award Program, service members, civilian employees and citizens are challenged to think outside the box and share their cost-cutting ideas. One lucky winner will present their cost-saving idea to President Barack Obama. "We are relying on our military members and civilian employees around the world to rise to the President's challenge again this year and submit innovative ideas for how we can operate the department more efficiently and effectively," said Beth McGrath, the Defense Department's deputy chief management officer. Since the award started three



years ago, more than 75,000 cost-cutting ideas have been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget. Participants can submit ideas via the SAVE program website until the July 24 deadline. Judges will decide on the final four ideas and citizens will have a chance to choose the winner.

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[White House SAVE Award Program Website](#)

DEFEATING DEBT FOR MARINES AND FAMILIES

To help Marines avoid the pitfall of financial debt, Marine Corps Community Services offers the Personal Financial Management Program at bases and stations across the Corps. Specialists are ready to assist in developing a personalized financial plan for Marines and their families, whether that includes buying a home or car, eliminating credit card debt or increasing savings. "One of the biggest and easiest ways people can become indebted is not having any plan for their finances," said Lynda Schmidt, a personal financial management program specialist aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif. "We offer several different ways to help people get their finances in order to help avoid debt or eliminate it."

[MCCS Financial Resource Website](#)

[Also Read: Corps Offers Ways To Avoid Debt](#)



RUNNING TOWARD SOUNDS OF CHAOS, MARINES HONE SKILLS IN INFANTRY IMMERSION TRAINER



Without leaving the confines of Camp Pendleton, Calif., Marines can enter an Afghan village, counter an insurgent ambush and meet with local villagers



thanks to the Infantry Immersion Trainer (IIT). The advanced simulation system uses holograms and pyrotechnics to recreate foreign urban environments down to the authentic sounds and smells of combat. Marines learn how to engage with civilians while also preparing for an attack. "When things happen [in urban combat], they're not very simple. They're complicated," said Maj. Lucas Castanos. But with the IIT, Marines are better trained for the challenging conditions they will face overseas.

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PENDLETON HOSTS 2012 CROSSFIT GAMES

The CrossFit craze sweeping the country landed 91 athletes at Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 12 for the 2012 Reebok CrossFit Games. Considered one of the most extreme forms of competitive fitness, athletes participated in two events to prove their physical fitness. They started by swimming 700-meters in the Pacific Ocean, biking 6-miles through grueling terrain and running up more than 1,400 vertical feet. Competitors ended the day by maneuvering their way through the Corps' School of Infantry obstacle course. The CrossFit Games are a unique challenge, forcing competitors to train for all events and then announcing the competition just hours before the start. "It has been a huge honor to be able to participate on and work together with Camp Pendleton. Hopefully these events get more Marines involved in CrossFit," said Jeremy Kinnick, a CrossFit Games competitor.

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HEROES

GEORGIA MARINE AWARDED SILVER STAR

Under enemy fire, Lance Cpl. Jeffrey Cole of Woodstock, Ga., risked his own life to aid his fellow Marines and this month he received the Silver Star Medal, the nation's third highest award for valor, for his heroic actions. In August 2010, Cole's platoon was out on a reconnaissance patrol in Marjah, Afghanistan, when they fell under heavy enemy fire. Within minutes, five of the Marines were wounded, including Cole. Despite gunshot wounds to the arm, Cole provided suppressive fire on the insurgents at close range, so his fellow Marines could take cover in a nearby canal. Cole continued to fight until a British helicopter landed to bring the Marines to safety. "Nothing I did comes close to the Marines I was with ... Not once did they waiver," said Cole. "This award isn't my award. It's their award and all the guys who we lost who can't wear it now, I'll wear it for them since they can't." Now assigned to Wounded Warrior Battalion-East at Camp Lejeune, N.C., Cole has undergone multiple surgeries to regain the use of his left arm.

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TRANSITION

NYC EXPANDS 'HELMETS TO HARDHATS'



Officials in New York City have announced that they are expanding the "Helmets to Hardhats" program, which matches returning veterans to jobs with the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York. Since the program started in 2003, it has provided hundreds of veterans



with jobs. With increased funding for 2013, even more veterans can take advantage of the program. "More and more veterans are

returning to the five boroughs every day, and the City Council is working hard to make sure they have jobs to come home to," said City Council Speaker Christine Quinn. "And what better way for many veterans to use the skills they developed in the military than in a rewarding and good paying career in the city's building trades? By helping Helmets to Hardhats expand their operations, we'll get even more veterans back to work and help ease their transition into civilian life."

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Helmets to Hardhats Website

NEW HEALTHCARE INITIATIVE FOR RURAL VETERANS

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has implemented a new initiative, Specialty Care Access Network-Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (SCAN-ECHO), to increase access to specialty care services for Veterans in rural and medically under-served areas through the use of video conferencing equipment. "We are committed to providing increased access to high-quality health care to Veterans regardless of where they live," said Secretary Eric K. Shinseki. "Through SCAN-ECHO, patients in rural areas with complex medical conditions are now able to receive specialty care treatment from their local VA physician." SCAN-ECHO enables specialty care teams in areas such as diabetes, pain management, and Hepatitis C to use video conferencing equipment to connect with Veterans' local primary care providers (PCPs) and Patient Aligned Care Teams. During a scheduled SCAN-ECHO clinic, the PCP presents a patient's case and the specialty care team recommends a treatment plan. In addition to case presentations, formal clinical education is also provided.



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Also Read: VA Expands Rural Health Program

HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS IN HAITI INSPIRED MARINE TO ENLIST



In the aftermath of the devastating 2010 Haitian earthquake, Junior F. Saintville experienced the Marine Corps' crisis response capabilities firsthand. Saintville was severely injured in the quake but was unable to receive treatment at the local hospital. A U.S. Marine offered to take Saintville for treatment with the military medical staff. "This Marine chose me. He told me to follow him, and he would try to get someone to help," said Saintville, who was treated for a dislocated leg, cuts and bruises. Shortly after the encounter, Saintville moved to New York to be with family and decided to enlist in the Corps. "I wanted to be someone who could help when things [like the situation in Haiti] happen," he said. Today, Pfc. Saintville is stationed at Okinawa, Japan, where he works as a motor transport mechanic and has started the process to become a naturalized U.S. citizen.

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